

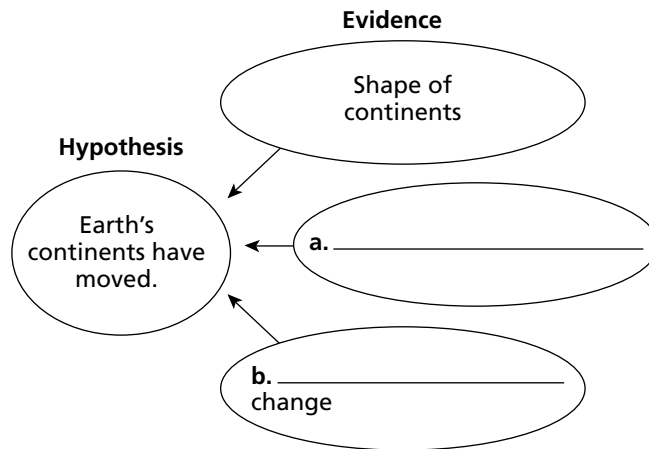
Plate Tectonics ▪ *Guided Reading and Study*

Drifting Continents

This section describes a theory of how the continents came to be located where they are today. The section also gives evidence for the theory and explains why the theory was not accepted for many years.

Use Target Reading Skills

As you read about the evidence that supports the theory of continental drift, complete the graphic organizer.



Continental Drift

1. State Alfred Wegener's hypothesis about how Earth's continents have moved.

2. Wegener named his supercontinent _____.

3. What did Wegener think had happened to this supercontinent?

4. Wegener's idea that the continents slowly moved over Earth's surface became known as _____.

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5. Circle the letter of each sentence that supports Wegener's hypothesis.
 - a. Some continents match up like jigsaw puzzle pieces.
 - b. Different rock structures are found on different continents.
 - c. Fossils of tropical plants are found near the equator.
 - d. Continental glaciers once covered South Africa.
6. Give an example of evidence from land features that supported Wegener's idea of continental drift. _____

7. Any trace of an ancient organism preserved in rock is called a(n) _____.
8. How did Wegener explain similar fossils on different continents?

9. Is the following sentence true or false? Wegener believed that continental drift explained fossils of tropical plants found in places that today have a polar climate. _____

Wegener's Hypothesis Rejected

10. How did Wegener think that mountains formed? _____

11. How do the locations of mountains support Wegener's idea about how mountains form? _____

